Many students in today’s schools have one goal in mind, to do well in their classes and obtain a very high class rank. Class rank is a measure of how a student’s performance compares to other students in the same class. This is calculated by ordering the Grade Point Average (GPA) of students and ranking them from highest to lowest. One of the main benefits of class rank is to aid students with a high rank get accepted at elite colleges and universities. Colleges and universities admissions department use a student’s class rank as a way to see if the student is fit for their school; however class rank is not always an accurate reflection of the student. Class rank can hurt more people than it benefits, and should no longer be used by school districts.

Class rank though it seems like a simple and innocent principle, has a wide range of effects on everyone in the school district. Class rank gives colleges and universities a prediction of what type of student the person is. Students with an average GPA will have a much a harder time than those who are in the top ten percent of their class getting accepted to elite schools. To those who maybe a little unfamiliar or who are a little unclear about class rank, this seems like a good system as long as you obtain a high class rank. The problem lies in the fact that only a small number of students can obtain a high enough class rank to benefit from. The majority of students’ GPA’s will hinder them from being accepted into top schools. For example, there are more valedictorians than there are spots open in the top Ivy League schools. This means that even students who graduate top in their class will be turned down by Ivy Leagues schools. This fact also means that colleges and universities look at other factors when making the decision on who to reject from their college. One way schools compare students is by having a quality rating for your high school. Admissions officers figure out which schools are better than other schools. The school you attend can be a deciding factor in your admission to a school. This factor can be very inaccurate, the students of a school’s education level varies greatly from year to year. These rankings could result in a very intelligent student being rejected and an average student, from a high school that is ranked high on the college’s board, being accepted.

Colleges accept students based on many other factors other than grades, GPA, and class rank. Some of these factors are high school course taken, the average SAT score, AP exam results, student portfolios, activities involved with, achievements, personal recommendations, and student’s attributes.